

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending and rejected in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-7, 11, 14 and 21 are being amended. Claims 9 and 10 are being canceled. Claims 1-8 and 11-21 remain pending. Reconsideration in view of the amendments and the remarks is respectfully requested.

In paragraphs 2 and 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 11-17, and 19-21 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Wahl in view of Blumenau. Wahl discloses a data mirroring system, wherein a local computer system can mirror data with a remote computer system. Blumenau discloses disassociation of storage volumes on an as-needed basis.

Generally, each of independent claims 1, 11, 14 and 21 includes the limitations of “breaking the sync state between the first logical volume and the third logical volume and between the second logical volume and the fourth logical volume based on a command; establishing a synchronization link between the fourth logical volume and the third logical volume; coupling a first auxiliary host to the third logical volume; and enabling the first auxiliary host to perform operations on the third logical volume while the first host continues operations on the first logical volume and while the first logical volume and second logical volume continue in sync state.” Neither Wahl nor Blumenau teaches creating a second pair of synchronizing storage volumes initially synchronized with the first pair of synchronizing storage volumes. Further, neither Wahl nor Blumenau teaches enabling an auxiliary host to perform operations on the second pair of synchronizing storage volumes while a first host performs operations on the first pair of synchronizing storage volumes. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 11, 14 and 21 and claims 2-6, 8, 12, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 which depend from these claims are patentable over Wahl in view of Blumenau for at least these reasons.

The Examiner asserts that, since Blumenau teaches disassociation, that the combination with Wahl renders the claimed invention obvious. However, applicant respectfully submits that Blumenau does not teach establishing a second pair of synchronizing storage

volumes. Further, since Blumenau does not teach disassociation for the purpose of establishing a second pair of synchronizing storage volumes, Blumenau cannot teach the motivation to be combined with Wahl to create the claimed invention.

In paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over Wahl in view of Gotoh. Claims 9 and 10 are being canceled.

In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 18 under 35 USC § 103 as unpatentable over Wahl in view of Blumenau and further in view of Kamvysselis. Kamvysselis discloses an asynchronous mirroring system. As stated above with reference to claim 1 (from which claim 7 depends) and claim 14 (from which claim 18 depends), neither Wahl nor Blumenau discloses creating a second pair of storage volumes that have been synchronized with the first pair of storage volumes, or enabling a first auxiliary host to perform operations on the second pair of storage volumes. Neither does Kamvysselis. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7 and 18 are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claims 1 and 14.

If the Examiner has any questions, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 8, 2005
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
600 Hansen Way
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1043
Telephone (650) 856-6500
Facsimile (650) 843-8777

By Marc A. Sockol
Marc A. Sockol
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 40,823

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By: Cathi L.G. Thoorsell

Cathi L.G. Thoorsell

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